

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

—

Annual Report on the State of the Public Health for the Year 1944.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. F. Green, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (on War Service from 17-7-42).

*Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical
Officer):*

I. F. MacKenzie, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Priv. Tel. Weobley 59).

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office:

B. J. Scandrett. (On War Service from 1939).

Temporary Clerk: Miss D. M. J. Bramfitt.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

T. S. Watts, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (Part-Time).
Cert. Meat Inspector. Resigned 21-10-44.

Acting Sanitary Inspector:

J. D. Barrs, A.M.I.C.E., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Office:

4, Church Street, Leominster. (Tel. Leom. 95).

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Bromyard Urban Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Members,

I present herewith the Annual Report for the year 1944.

The health of the community continued good throughout the twelve months and no serious epidemic occurred.

I have pleasure in once more placing on record the high standard maintained by your Sanitary Inspector in the execution of his varied duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE.

June, 1945.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	213
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	472
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£8,929
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£34/17/6

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

<i>Birth Rate</i> (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	15.6
<i>Stillbirth Rate</i> (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	38.5
<i>Death Rate</i> (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	19.8
<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i> (per 1,000 live births)	...	40.0
<i>Deaths from Puerperal Causes:</i> No deaths in 1944 were attributable to Puerperal or Maternal causes.		

Comparable Data for England and Wales 1944.

Birth Rate.	Still Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
17.6.	30.0	11.6.	46.0.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

Clinics:

There are no Clinics provided by the Authority. Under a County Council Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Thursdays, at 2 p.m., in Frome Bank, Bromyard.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts and to Mr. J. D. Barrs for the following statement (Sections C. to E.) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies:

The whole of the district is supplied, and also eleven houses and four farms in the Rural District.

Section C.—Continued.

The supply was generally adequate for all domestic purposes during the year, but drought conditions at one period entailed limited use of the water by consumers and curtailment for business purposes. After the drought, the yield from the springs increased steadily from 40,000 gallons to 100,000 gallons daily by the end of December.

Samples of the water, which is chlorinated, were taken for analysis at intervals and found to be satisfactory.

Sewerage:

Owing to the war the proposed sewage disposal scheme formulated in 1937 was held up and the sewage continued to discharge at 3 outfalls as in previous years.

Severe drought conditions last year reduced the normal flow of the river at the Forburries outfall, where the dry water flow of sewage is about 40,000 gallons daily, and complaints were made of a nuisance arising at this point, and also at Petty Bridge, 350 yards lower down. Towards the end of the year the above trouble was neutralised by floods which scoured and cleansed the outfall frequently.

The storeware pipe sewers in the town were examined at intervals and found to be in a satisfactory state and free from offensive odours.

Rivers and Streams:

Except for the matter of pollution described under the previous heading there was nothing calling for comment.

House Refuse:

The collection of house refuse is carried out by a contractor. The service during the year was generally satisfactory but on one occasion outside assistance was necessary to deal with the work. The horse-drawn trolley used for the collection is out-of-date and disseminates dust and other matter in the streets on windy days. A modern covered tipping lorry is badly needed for this service. The condition of the "tip" is attended to weekly by one of the Council's employees.

Demolition of Cottages under the Housing Act of 1935.

Three old cottages in Old Road, scheduled as Slum Clearance Area, No. 4, have been demolished to ground level in accordance with a notice served under the above Act.

Section C.—continued.

			No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied With.
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	5	-	-	-
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	112	4	4	1
Dairies	...	...	20	1	-	1
Bakehouses	...	...	25	-	-	-
Butchers Shops	...	...	40	-	-	-
Factories and Workshops	...	...	18	1	-	1
Water Supplies	...	...	60	-	-	-
Infectious Disease	...	...	12	-	-	-
Complaints	...	...	20	5	-	5

Defects Remedied.

Drains cleared	...	10	New W.C. Pans	...	4
Drains repaired	...	3	Flushing Cisterns		
New Drains	...	3	provided	...	4

Factories:

- (a) With Mechanical Power—No. of Inspections, 6.
- (b) Without Mechanical Power—No. of Inspections, 12.

Camping Sites.

There are no registered sites in the area.

Bed Bugs.

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... 16
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 16
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ... Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

There are no milk producers in the Urban District. Inspection of the Dairies in town is carried out regularly and samples are taken when necessary. Most of the Milk retailed in town is sampled outside the district.

Meat and other Foods:

No cases of diseased meat were noted, all meat having been thoroughly inspected at the Hereford Abattoir.

Section E.—continued.

Transport and handling of the meat was satisfactory and, in the past year the increased storage capacity at the Meat Depot. has facilitated its proper handling.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption.

The following foods were examined, found unsound and destroyed.

Bacon	13½ lbs.	Decomposition.
Sausages	60 lbs.	ditto
Tinned Fish	4 tins	Blown
„ Vegetables	60 tins	„
„ Milk	141 tins	„
„ Meat	16 tins	„
„ Fruit	3 tins	„
Jam and Marmalade	7 tins	Fractured Tins.
Margarine	51 lbs.	Mould.
Cereals	3 pkts.	Rat Pollution.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year under review, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia were the notifiable diseases which were most prevalent. Only four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, contrasting with the high 1943 total of sixteen. There were no cases of Measles or Diphtheria.

A complete list of the notifications is provided in the accompanying analysis in tabular form.

Analysis of Total Notified Cases, according to age:

DISEASE.	Age of Patient.													Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40		Un- known
Whooping Cough ..	2	2	3	1	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
Ac, Prim. Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	11
Erysipelas ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The state of Immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1944 is indicated in the table below.

Under 5 years of age.		Between 5 and 15 years of age.	
Number.	Percentage of Group.	Number.	Percentage of Group.
87	63.5 %	257	86.2 %

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1944 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 3 males and 6 females who normally reside within the district. During the year 2 new cases were notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period no deaths from this disease occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

Disease.				Male.	Female.	Total.
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	2	6	8
Heart and Blood Vessels	...	...	...	10	7	17
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	3	5
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	0	2	2
Total	...	...	...	14	19	33